

Remarks

The present application includes claims 1-20. Claims 2, 3, 5-7, 12, 13 and 15-17 have been amended. Claims 1, 4, 8-11, 14 and 18-20 have been canceled.

Claims 2, 3, 5-7, 12, 13 and 15-17 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. The Examiner stated that the claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As such, the Applicant has amended claims 2, 3, 5-7, 12, 13, and 15-17 into independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 2 and 3 were objected to for lacking proper antecedent basis for "said clutch release". Claims 2 and 3 have been amended so the term reads as "said clutch release mechanism".

Claims 1, 10, 11 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over text in paragraph 5 of the specification of the present application in view of Siczek et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 4,995,046) and Randolph et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,619,763).

In order to expedite prosecution of the present application, claims 1, 10, 11 and 20 have been canceled. The Applicant reserves the right to pursue the subject matter of claims 1, 10, 11 and 20 in a continuation application.

Claims 4, 9, 14 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over text in paragraph 5 of the specification of the present application in view of Siczek and Randolph and further in view of Gorman (U.S. Pat. No. 1,438,486).

In order to expedite prosecution of the present application, claims 4, 9, 14 and 19 have been canceled. The Applicant reserves the right to pursue the subject matter of claims 4, 9, 14 and 19 in a continuation application.

Conclusion

For the reasons discussed above, the Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2, 3, 5-7, 12, 13 and 15-17 should be in condition for allowance.

The Applicant looks forward to working with the Examiner to resolve any remaining issues in the application.

If the Examiner has any questions or the Applicant can be of any assistance, the Examiner is invited and encouraged to contact the Applicant at the number below.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any necessary fees or credit any overpayment to the deposit account of GTC, account number 070845.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: September 1, 2004



David R. Beto
Reg. No. 51,467

MCANDREWS, HELD & MALLOY, LTD.
500 West Madison, 34th Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60661
Telephone: (312) 775-8000
Facsimile: (312) 775-8100